

# NEWS



Fall 2021

## A virtual library

When students at Centerville-Abington Elementary School visit their library once a week to return and check out books, the librarian plays one of the read aloud videos from a new virtual library, which the students watch on a projector screen while she checks in the books. Before the students browse for new books, the librarian has a brief discussion with the students about the story's theme, genre, main idea, tough concepts or other topics.

Victoria Bevins, Elementary Integrated Media Specialist, also created her new virtual library with two theme "rooms" each month, such as the bullying prevention and disability awareness room and the Halloween room for October.

"Halloween is obviously the lighthearted theme for the month, but also includes cool science videos and the videos about the history of the holiday," said Mrs. Bevins in October, referring to educational videos such as BrainPop. "The bullying prevention theme supports our schools' values, brings awareness to tough topics, and corresponds with National Unity Day."

Mrs. Bevins said she tried to make culture themes authentic.

"The stories selected, the images used, and the attached videos were all chosen with care to hopefully inform students about a different culture in a very genuine and respectful way," she said.

The virtual library is also available on the school's media center website for at-home use and for teachers and students to use in their classrooms:

[Media Center \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)



*The November themed "rooms" in the virtual library are Thanksgiving, Veterans Appreciation Week and Native American Heritage Month. Students are able to click on the books, which they can listen to, and other icons (for other informational videos) on this and other Google Slides that comprise the virtual library.*



### ***Familiar face, new position***

**Victoria Bevins** is the new Integrated Media Specialist for both elementary schools this year. She taught fourth grade for the past eight years. She graduated from Indiana University East in 2013 with a degree in elementary education.

"As a teacher, I always enjoyed creating digital resources for my students to use and to share with my coworkers," she said. "When we had to incorporate virtual learning into our classrooms, I utilized this skill and interest even more. When the position for Integrated Media Specialist became available, I felt like it was a good chance to get to utilize my skills in a new capacity."

She is excited to see what she can do for the elementary libraries and computer labs, and she wants to continue to provide teachers with "new and useful" resources.

## New staff

Many new teachers have joined the ranks this year; however, several are already experienced educators.



Veteran teacher **Bonita Klein** is in her 31<sup>st</sup> year of teaching. She teaches high school business. She taught 11 years at Edinburgh High School and 19 years at Lincoln High School. She is a graduate of Manchester College in Indiana, now called Manchester University.

**Lesli Walther**, sophomore English and journalism teacher, taught at Centerville Junior High School for seven years in the past before deciding to stay home to raise her four kids.

“Sixteen years later, here I am,” she said. “I love working with kids. Being a high school student can be challenging on so many levels. Our staff aims to create an environment where kids can come to us for help. I take a lot of pride in that. We are a family.”

Mrs. Walther has lived in Centerville since 1997. She said, “Centerville is where my heart is. This is where my kids are. Over the years, I’ve found it interesting how much our school system is the soul, essence, spirit of our town.”



**Abby Coffey** is the family and consumer science teacher at Centerville Senior High School. She graduated from Ball State University in December 2018 and taught sixth grade for Indiana Digital Learning School from January 2019 through July 2021.

“I heard about the FACS position from a friend and colleague, Abby Lipscomb,” said Ms. Coffey. “She is a special education teacher here at Centerville.”



**Sarah Wells** teaches ninth grade English/language arts. She taught the same subject in seventh grade at Dennis Middle School in Richmond for a year. In Colorado, she held a position as a full-time substitute teacher and a position as a seventh-grade English teacher.

“I moved back to Indiana this past July, so I interviewed and got the job,” said Ms. Wells, noting that she grew up in Liberty.



**Austin VanDevender** is a high school health teacher. Last year, he taught sophomore English at Northeastern High School. He graduated from IU East in 2020.

“When hearing about the position, I was extremely excited,” said Mr. VanDevender. “I graduated from Centerville in 2016. Centerville has always been home, and I am eager to give back to my community.”

**Mia Nickel** teaches seventh grade English. She has a degree in writing and is finishing her Master of Science in Education at Indiana University East. Prior to beginning her position at the junior high, she taught elementary art at St. Gabriel’s in Connersville.

“I was placed at CJHS through my IU East program, and I feel incredibly fortunate,” she said.



**Ariel Allen** teaches eighth grade science. She graduated from Indiana University and is currently pursuing her master’s degree from Western Governors University.

This is her sixth year as a teacher. Previously, she taught for Richmond Community Schools.



**Tresa Rabchuk** teaches art at both the junior high and Centerville-Abington Elementary.

Before her first teaching job in Arkansas, she worked in costume and interior design. She graduated from Auburn University in Alabama with a Bachelor in Fine Arts, majoring in visual art.

“I had a class with Bo Jackson,” she said, referring to the Auburn football star. She continued her education at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, graduating with an Associate of Applied Science, majoring in Interior Design.

Mrs. Rabchuck enjoys cooking, and she won a contest for her white bean bisque recipe.

“I received \$5,000 to donate to my favorite charity,” she said.





**Sarah Booker** teaches sixth grade math and science. She has taught second and third grade in Richmond, and she taught sixth grade in Connersville for four years. She is in her ninth year of teaching.

“A friend and former coworker informed me of the job opening,” Mrs. Booker said of her current position.



**Lyndsey Rohrer** teaches fourth grade.

“I am a Centerville graduate, and I am super excited to be given the opportunity to teach here now,” she said.

Ms. Rohrer taught fifth grade in Lawrenceburg for the last four years. She and her daughter moved back to Centerville this summer to be closer to family.

Ms. Rohrer is a graduate of IU East.

**Lori Schwanitz** teaches sixth grade math. She is a graduate of IU East.

Her first nine years as a teacher were spent at Eastview Elementary School in Connersville.

“I have always wanted to focus on teaching math, and when I saw this opportunity come available, I couldn't wait to apply,” said Mrs. Schwanitz.



Although **Joshua Tudor** is officially a first-year teacher, he said it doesn't feel like a first year.

He completed his student teaching at Rose Hamilton, and he covered for a couple different maternity leaves.

“After spending an entire year in second grade with an awesome team, it pretty much makes this year feel like a second year instead of my first,” he explained.

Mr. Tudor is a graduate of Northeastern High School, and he coached middle school football there during his college years. He also was a substitute teacher for three years while attending college.



**Katherine (Kate) Swinger** teaches English/language arts and social studies in sixth grade. She is in her 20<sup>th</sup> year as an educator. She earned her undergraduate degree from Franklin College and her graduate degree from Ball State University.

Mrs. Swinger taught three years in the Southwestern Consolidated School Corporation of Shelby County and 16 years in the Fayette County School Corporation.

“I moved to Centerville because I had heard great things about Mrs. VanWinkle and what a great building she ran,” said Mrs. Swinger. “I had also heard that Centerville was simply a great corporation to work for.”

**Haley Conway** is a sixth grade special education teacher. A first-year teacher, she graduated from IU East with a degree in elementary education and a minor in math and mild intervention. She was a paraprofessional at Charles elementary school in Richmond for one semester after she graduated. She also tutored throughout college and played college basketball.

Ms. Conway recalls her field experience at Centerville-Abington Elementary while she was in college.

“It was with Kenny Marshall, and I absolutely loved the environment, including the staff and kids,” she said. “I saw the special education position and the sixth grade math position posted online. I had numerous teachers tell me that Centerville-Abington Elementary was a terrific school, so I knew I had to apply.”



**Madison Day-Dishmond** is teaching third grade. Her first teaching position was at Hagerstown Elementary School in second grade.

“I was a Centerville-Abington student from kindergarten to twelfth grade,” she said.

Mrs. Day-Dishmond is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University.

**Courtney Burgoon** is a new kindergarten teacher. A graduate of IU East, she is a first-year teacher.

“While in college, I worked as a K-5 tutor on the IU East campus along with waitressing at a local coffee shop in my hometown (Connersville),” she said.

Ms. Burgoon said she was eager to apply for this position because “the Centerville community has always appealed to me for not only it's welcoming atmosphere, but also because I had heard incredible remarks about the school system.” She said she can confirm that these remarks were true, and she couldn't be more thankful for her new job.



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# Teacher says Green Club projects have kept more than 11,000 pounds of plastic out of landfills, commends local business for its recent involvement

In October, high school Green Club members visited a Primex Plastics recycling facility in Richmond to watch plastic bottle lids be ground and transformed into black pellets that will be used to make benches for the school corporation campus. The lids were some of the nearly 12,000 pounds of milk, water, pop and other lids collected by students since 2015 for various projects.

“When the bench parts are ready, Primex will contact us and these students will be the ones assembling the benches,” said the club sponsor, Penny Ausmus, adding that she believes the project has enormous value. “To think one school of less than a dozen students at any given time can prevent over 11,000 pounds of plastic from going to the landfill, it is mind blowing to think what could be salvaged if more Wayne County schools came on board with us.”

Originally, the school partnered with the local Cope Environmental Center and provided the plastic that was used for siding on one wall in a center classroom. Later, a manufacturer in Evansville used the caps to make park benches, which Hills Pet purchased for its facility after transporting the bulk containers of plastic to the Evansville factory.

Primex Plastics learned of the project just prior to the pandemic shutdown and offered to process the lids and begin making the benches at no charge.

“The personnel at Primex gave them a detailed training opportunity, a Q and A session and employment recruiting talk,” said Ms. Ausmus of the recent field trip. “This company has overwhelmed me with their interests in these students and . . . involvement in the community.”

Students Dylan Burke and Hunter Bennett expressed similar sentiments about the field trip: It was cool. Dylan liked learning that “bottle caps can be used and broken down and be made into something else, like benches and other stuff.” Hunter also appreciated the opportunity to ask questions at the recycling facility.



Above, a Primex Plastics employee at the Richmond recycling facility, shows Centerville High School students what plastic lids look like after going through a grinder to be turned into plastic pellets.

To view a short Primex Plastics YouTube video about the recent field trip, use this link:

<https://youtu.be/8y5obLk6HaI>

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## Junior and senior high students join forces to perform **Christmas drama**



For the first time, the junior high and high school programs are combining to perform *A Christmas Carol* in December. Fifty students in grades 7-12 are involved on stage or in backstage crews (lighting, sound, props, stage managing). Director Shannon Nevels said “opportunity” is the word that describes the intent of school drama clubs.

“As long as a student is in good academic standing, shows up when needed, and has a good attitude with the adults and other students, I will work with them to find some way for them to be involved, to provide the opportunity for them,” she said, noting that the focus is on basic theater skills and team building. “It creates a strong off-stage group, which then translates into a strong on-stage group.”

Mrs. Nevels has directed for various organizations, including Richmond Civic Theatre, Stage One Youth Theatre, and Centerville Christian Church, but her favorite place to direct is school.

“A very supportive environment is provided by the administration and staff, which makes my directing task more enjoyable,” she said.

Brynden Alvey, a former Centerville graduate who was part of the drama program, is serving as the assistant director. Sherry Kean is a parent helper.

**A Christmas Carol**  
Friday, December 17 -- 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 18 -- 3:00 p.m.

**You are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of School Trustees.  
Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each  
month at 7 p.m. at the Spencer Administration Building.  
You are encouraged to contact our schools if you have questions or comments.  
Office hours for corporation buildings are from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**



Superintendent: Mike McCoy/Assistant Superintendent: Sean Stevenson 855-3475  
High School Principal: Timothy Hollendonner/Assistant Principal: Jason Talbot 855-3481  
Junior High School Principal: Brian Bellew 855-5113  
Centerville-Abington Elementary Principal: Kelly VanWinkle 855-5132  
Rose Hamilton Elementary Principal: Sam Pritchard 966-3911